

## **SANPETE COUNTY SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING**

**April 23, 2012, 6:30 P.M.**

Gunnison City Council Room, 38 West Center, Gunnison, Utah  
Discussion of Flooding in the Fayette Area Around Dover Road

Present are: Commission Chair Claudia Jarrett, Commissioners Spencer Cox and Steve Frischknecht, County Attorney Brody Keisel, County Clerk Sandy Neill, Sargent Greg Peterson, and Weed Department Supervisor Bryce Jackson. Also present is Bronson Smart with the NRCS, Elliot Lips from Great Basin Earth Science, Darin Robinson and Garrick Willden from Jones and DeMille Engineering. The following property owners and interested parties are also present: Garth Mellor, Loni Hammond, Dean Buchanan, Sherman Lee, Fred Barber, Dick Bona, Sherwin Sorensen, Brice Roberts, Barbara Bown, Newell Pickett, Scott Bartholomew, Paul Bown, Clint Boswell, Robby Lee, and Steve Childs.

Meeting is called to order by Commission Chair Claudia Jarrett.

### **INTRODUCTION - SANPETE COUNTY COMMISSION**

Commissioner Jarrett introduces the presenters. The County has a unique opportunity due to grant money that is available to do something with the flooding issue in the Fayette area. NRCS is here to let them know what can and can't be done.

### **NRCS EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION (EWP) PROGRAM FUNDING REVIEW - BRONSON SMART, (NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE) NRCS**

Bronson Smart tells of other recent projects that NRCS has been involved with in the County. One alternative for the Dover Road area is to remove rocks and repair roads. Another alternative is to get help from the Army Corp of Engineers and dredge. Another alternative is to enact an easement program (Easement in Lieu of Recovery). They would pay property owners for part of their land, and let that land be a flood area. The property owner would continue to own the property, can still use their property to hunt, fish, graze, and control access. They would not be able to build buildings on the property. The cost share on EWP funding is 75% federal and 25% local with the Federal Government paying for the technical services.

### **SEVIER RIVER AREA FLOOD HISTORY - ELLIOT LIPS, GREAT BASIN EARTH SCIENCE**

Elliot Lips states they are in the beginning stages of gathering information. They are unsure how much of an easement would be needed if this were chosen method. Right now, nothing is off the table. Dredging may not be a good solution. A lot of the property adjacent to the channel is on the flood plain, and gets inundated periodically. The area that gets inundated varies from 1-2 miles wide. Sediment is accumulating, and it needs to be considered when looking at solutions. In the last 30 years or so there has been significant changes in the river. Information needs to be gathered and evaluated. Mr. Lips shows photos taken from an airplane on June 10, 2005. The flooding spanned both sides of the river. There have been significant changes in the aligning of the river in the last 30 years or so. Somewhere between 1983 and 1993, a new alignment occurred, and a new channel was established. (Someone stated that the river was dredged in 1984.) The ability to move sediment is based on water discharge and also the gradient. When the gradient changes, more sediment can be added to the river, and you get deposition down stream. Comments are

made about the Salt Cedar that was planted by the government that is causing sediment problems. Bryce Jackson from the weed board is introduced. Legislation was passed that addresses noxious weeds. We can apply for up to \$150,000.00 for this purpose. There is a possibility that grant funds could be used help remove the Salt Cedar to help with the flooding.

**POTENTIAL MITIGATION EFFORTS - DARIN ROBINSON AND GARRICK WILLDEN, JONES AND DeMILLE ENGINEERING**

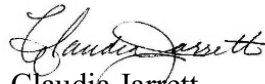
Darin Robinson states that one restriction the NRCS has is that they can only repair damage done by floods. Jones and DeMille would like to do more surveying, set targets and do contour mapping to better understand the capacity of the system (basically creating a model of existing conditions), and then make recommendations. At some point, the water leaves the base of the river and it finds it's way through. It either finds existing channels, or makes it's own path. The road provides vital services to the area and needs to be maintained. The bridge needs to maintained also. It will be hard to come up with a solution that will satisfy everyone. The County needs good data to put a plan together. Brody Keisel distributes a waiver form to be signed by property owners that will allow surveying, soil sampling, and observation of their property to gather data for purposes of this study. After options are drawn up, the County will ask for input as to which option to use.

**QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION**

Property owners use the provided maps to give details of what they have observed over the years on their property.

The meeting is adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

ATTEST:   
Sandy Neill  
Sanpete County Clerk

APPROVED:   
Claudia Jarrett  
Commission Chair